

CITY CRICKET CLUB LEGENDS

Denis Patrick Lloyd ('Lloyd')

What makes a City Cricket Club Legend? Is it the runs scored, the wickets taken? Representative Honours? Playing longevity? Coaching senior and youth teams? Wise counsel? Mentor? What about behind-the-scenes work on the Committee and indeed being a Patron of the Club? In the case of Denis Patrick Lloyd, it's all these things and many more.

Denis joined City Cricket Club as a 18-year-old from Kaikohe, known by many as Lloyd or DPR, Colt or even Rod Stewart at times – due to his haircut throughout the 70's. He seemed to have an uncanny resemblance to the actor Robert Redford with his quality of never seeming to age, debonair, along with being a trend setter. A calm, mellow and languid character from the outset, some might say mischievous, it certainly didn't take Denis long to make his mark, starting with a magnificent 159 in his very first innings for City against Kamo. From there, he became not just part of City's backbone and culture, but also a unique character of iconic presence in the Northland cricket scene.

Denis had first come to the attention of Northland's cricket fraternity as a prolific schoolboy cricketer for Northland College, in the Bay of Islands men's competition. Already technically correct and composed beyond his years, he was first chosen for the Northland senior team in 1966, as a 16-year-old schoolboy. Only two years later he would be selected to make his First Class cricket debut for Northern Districts.

The highlight of his first season was an epic 'all-day' century against Canterbury at Seddon Park. In doing so, he had the distinction of becoming the first Northland representative to reach three figures in a First Class game for Northern Districts – truly a remarkable achievement. Upon producing this Honours Board performance Denis was asked what his initials were, he replied "DPR" (only he knew the 'R' stood for Rod and a name he wasn't christened with). To this day the fictitious initials are inscribed on the Seddon Park Honours Board.

Lloyd made numerous Brabin Cup and Rothmans age tournament teams, and played for the NZ U23 team. He also made a name for himself in England for Dulwich in the London Surrey League where he was an integral part of its three consecutive championship sides in the mid-1970s, holding the Dulwich Cricket Club and Surrey League record for most runs in a season for several years.

Iconic clubs are built around great players, leaders and characters; Denis Lloyd epitomised all these things and became influential due to his experience and respect held within the club. First to practice, last to leave. Standing behind the nets, providing guidance and coaching to players of all abilities and ages. In these modern times, with digital technology available to review and enhance performance, Lloyd would have been in his element detecting the smallest of advantages. As it was, he set and maintained the highest of standards. In fact, it was often said that he was City's first (cricket) "professional" before such appointments were ever contemplated.

Many will remember the green MGB parked in front of the old clubrooms with several of the sports store bats displayed for sale along the bumper. The immaculate gear bag containing product for his hair, skin and various ailments. You always looked and smelled good if Denis was in your team.

As a batsman, Denis was hard to fault. His motto was "nothing flash, nothing rash". He played straight, hitting powerfully off both back and front foot and seemed to have almost limitless powers of concentration.

For City, success followed success. He won many City awards, including highest batting scores and best batting averages. He would also go on to captain City to a Dargaville Shield Championship title in 1982/83 – the first time it was won by a standalone Whangarei Club side. Not the regular first team captain, Denis was definitely part of what we would call these days "the leadership group".

For Northland, Denis is recognised as one of its best-ever performers. In 130 games (he is one of only five to reach a century of games), he scored over 5,000 runs, and took 120 wickets with his more-than-handful off-spin. As well as adding 63 catches in the field, he would also captain the team during the 80s and 90s in several Northern District tournaments. He was involved in 13 of Northland's prestigious Hawke Cup challenges and defences.

Winning a Hawke Cup challenge is tough and Denis contributed mightily to two in particular. In 1983, Northland won the Hawke Cup for only the second time in its history, by defeating Nelson. Denis was the hero of the match, showing remarkable determination with 88 as opener – batting for seven and a half hours! It was the first time in 27 years that the Hawke Cup came home to the North. In the 1989 challenge against Taranaki, Lloyd was asked by skipper Brian Dunning to "still be here at stumps" to keep Northland in the game. Lloyd did exactly that, laying the foundation for a convincing win. He batted almost the entire first day on a difficult wicket to score 38 not out, breaking the spirit of the Taranaki team.

Famous for his quotes, this effort of endurance matched perfectly with his oft-said line "well, we have started the trickle... now let's open the floodgates". He would reinforce this to the City Colts as the master helping develop his apprentices. From player to coach, Lloyd joined a select few who went on to replicate Hawke Cup success as both, when as coach, Northland defeated Auckland Waitakere in a Challenge match at Colin Maiden Park in Auckland (1998).

His influence didn't just stop with City. Lloyd and MacPherson Sports in Kamo (later, Lloyd Sports) was a haven for cricketers all over Northland. Denis also coached schoolboy cricket for many years and in the 1990s took a role as player/coach for the Whangarei Boys High School 1st X1. City was honored to 'lend' Denis out for a wee while! During all this time, 'knocking over' Lloyd in the nets was the goal – and it rarely happened. What made it worse, when they couldn't – is that he would be using a cut-down Duncan Fearnley bat the width of a stump! That bat is displayed here. Just another innovation by Lloyd – always thinking, always looking for a competitive edge, always practising and practising in the quest for perfection.

After 27 seasons with the club as a Premier player and captain, Denis retired in 1994 – and instantly became City's coach! Success again quickly followed, with City winning the 1995/96 championship. Later, as batting coach, the club had arguably its best season of all time, winning several club championships, including the Northern Districts Club Championship (Eric Petrie Cup) in the 2016/17 season.

Thought you have done it all for City and Northland? Not quite, as it was with tremendous pride that Lloyd accepted the role of Patron for City Cricket Club in 2018. It is a fitting and worthy role for Denis, who always gave and received from cricket. In that regard, his crickering career can be characterised by one of his favourite sayings, that "life is a two-way street".

The runs, wickets, catches, the coaching and mentoring of cricketers in Northland and for his beloved City Cricket Club, and his continued influence as the club's Patron – make Denis Patrick Lloyd a *City Cricket Club Legend*.



DENIS LLOYD

First Class Cricket (Northern Districts)									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct
First Class	34	63	4	1,211	20.52	103	1	3	15
List A One Day	6	6	1	62	12.40	34*	-	-	2

Northland									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct
Two Day	130	182	24	5,126	32.44	148	6	30	63
Bowling									
	M	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.	Best	5w	10w
Two Day	130	890	229	2,588	120	21.57	6-47	2	-

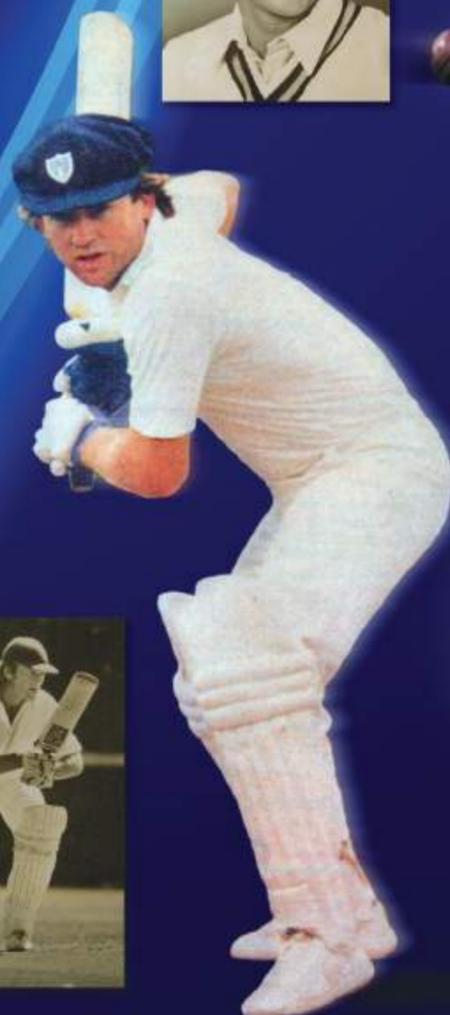
Notable Achievements

(Representative cricket)

- The first player from Northland to score a first-class century.
- Stand in Captain of the New Zealand Rothmans U23 team.
- Third all-time highest run scorers for Northland.
- Fourth on the list for most Northland matches played (130).
- One of eight Northland players to be in the 1000 runs and 100 wickets club.
- One of three best doubles for Northland in a match 117* and 6-47 vs Poverty Bay 1980/81.
- Holds the record for most catches (12) in the field for Northland in Hawke Cup matches.
- Holds the record for most catches (6) by a fieldsman for Northland in an innings.
- Northland Cricket senior head coach, winning the Hawke Cup 1998.
- Held the Dulwich Club & Surrey Championship record for most runs scored in a season (1571 runs at 52.37)
- Whangarei Club Cricketer of the Year 1981/82 season.
- Assistant batting coach of the successful 2016-2017 City Cricket Club season (4x championship titles).
- 1995/96 coach of City Cricket Club - winners of Whangarei Senior Championship.
- Began a random tree-planting fad on various back lawns of City Cricket Club members, 1978.

(City Cricket Club - Honours Board)

- Most Improved Player – 1968/69.
- Highest Batting Score (twice) – 1983/84, 1988/89.
- Best Batting Average (10 occasions) – 1967/68, 69/70, 70/71, 71/72, 72/73, 77/78, 78/79, 81/82, 82/83, 87/88.
- Wiseman Trophy – Best Bowling Average – 1983/84
- Best Bowling Performance – 1975/76.
- Wilson Platter (with points for runs, wickets, catches, etc.) – 1981/82, 82/83, 87/88.
- Cooney Cup, Clubman of The Year – 1970/71.
- Club Secretary – 1984/86.
- Selected in the City Cricket Club 50th Jubilee All Time XI (1996).
- Horses Arse (Balls-up of the Day) Telephone Book Fundraiser – 1998/99.
- Patron 2018 (Current).



Denis Lloyd

